



**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
November 10, 2020**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

Due to the COVID-19 health pandemic, the Long Lake City Council attended the meeting telephonically pursuant to Minn. Stat. 13D.021.

Present: Mayor: Charlie Miner; Council: Tom Skjaret, Jahn Dyvik, Michelle Jerde, and Deirdre Kvale

Staff Present: City Administrator: Scott Weske (in person); Public Works Director: Sean Diercks (telephonically); Fire Chief: James Van Eyll (telephonically); and City Clerk: Jeanette Moeller (in person)

Absent: None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MAYOR'S COMMENTS – LONG LAKE NEWS, MEETING REVIEW AND UPDATES

Mayor Miner stated that the Council held a Council work session meeting prior to this meeting where they discussed staff compensation and potential wage increases for 2021.

The Long Lake Fire Department did a great job hosting an event for Halloween last week where they handed out over 700 bags of goodies and raised about \$5,000 for new automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) for the department. He thanked residents and local businesses that contributed to the success of this event.

The election was held last week and Mayor Miner commended City Clerk Moeller and the election judges for their work on making it run smoothly. He congratulated the two new Council members-elect, Mike Feldmann and Gina Joyce. He thanked current Council members Skjaret and Jerde for their years of service to the City.

Mayor Miner stressed the importance of continuing to remain vigilant regarding preventing the spread of COVID-19.

APPROVE AGENDA

A motion was made by Dyvik, seconded by Skjaret, to approve the agenda as presented. Ayes: all by roll call.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approve Minutes of October 20, 2020 City Council Meeting
- B. Receive Unofficial Draft Minutes of October 20, 2020 Economic Development Authority Meeting
- C. Approve Vendor Claims and Payroll

- D. Adopt Ordinance No. 2020-04 Amending Ordinance No. 2019-05 to Acknowledge the Implementation of a Gas Energy Franchise Fee on CenterPoint Energy Minnesota Gas, its Successors and Assigns
- E. Adopt Resolution No. 2020-37 Conditionally Appointing Candidate Scott Jarmus to the Position of Paid On-Call Firefighter for the City of Long Lake Fire Department

A motion was made by Skjaret, seconded by Jerde, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Ayes: all by roll call.

OPEN CORRESPONDENCE

No one was in attendance to address the City Council during Open Correspondence.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Authorize Construction of a Multi-Purpose Stage in Nelson Lakeside Park

City Clerk Moeller recalled that during August and October, both the Park Board and the Council heard a presentation by Marty Schneider representing the Orono Lions Club, Long Lake Area Chamber and other community groups and individuals expressing interest in constructing a small-scale multi-purpose stage that would be in an open area on the eastern edge of Nelson Lakeside Park. She explained that the stage would be approximately 500 square feet stage for community use and when completed it would be formally donated to the City to control the permitting and use of the structure. She noted that the Council had enthusiastically supported this notion at their October 6, 2020 meeting and directed staff to research the next steps for this to move forward. She stated that the next step is for the Council to authorize the Lions Club, Long Lake Area Chamber and their other partners to construct the stage with the understanding that it will be donated to the City and to authorize the City Administrator to sign off on any required permits where a property owners' signature would be necessary.

Council member Dyvik asked if there had been any changes to the design since the last time it was presented to the Council.

Marty Schneider stated that there have been no changes to the design but more details had been included, the position of the stage as depicted in the exhibits has been moved to the correct position, and renderings were added that included people and various activities that could take place on the stage area.

Council member Dyvik expressed concern about the proximity of the stage to the nearby property owner.

Mr. Schneider noted that they are exceeding the setback requirements to the eastern property line and noted that he believes it is about 15 feet from the back of the stage to the property line.

Mayor Miner asked if there had been any communication with that property owner.

Mr. Schneider stated that they have reached out to them and sent them information, including the diagram, but have not heard back from them.

Council member Dyvik pointed out that the renderings include various landscaping features and asked if that would be done or if was just ideas for the City to do in the future.

Mr. Schneider indicated that their intent is to work very closely with Public Works to bring in a high-quality community stage and they are also planning to provide some landscaping as well.

Council member Skjaret asked about electricity access in the area.

Mr. Schneider responded that the electrical monument is still in place and has been used successfully for the last few years without issue. He added that they plan to be involved with Public Works and if it is found that they need to up the amps at this monument, they will incorporate that into their plans.

Public Works Director Diercks confirmed that there is power available at the current location.

John James, President of the Long Lake Area Chamber of Commerce, stated that his understanding is that there would also be a power source set up on the back side of the stage.

Council member Dyvik stated that he is in favor of this project, but has concerns about its proximity to the nearby property owner. He indicated that he was under the impression that it would be on the other side of the sidewalk.

The Council discussed the sound amplification with the stage design and acoustic features that help direct the flow of the sound forward.

A motion was made by Skjaret, seconded by Jerde, to authorize the Orono Lions Club, Long Lake Area Chamber of Commerce, and other community partners to construct a multi-purpose stage in Nelson Lakeside Park with the understanding that the stage will be donated to the City upon completion, and to authorize the City Administrator to sign off on any permits that will be required for the project where a property owner signature is necessary.

Council member Dyvik asked how far away the stage will be from the sidewalk.

Mr. Schneider explained that the distance from the front of the stage and the eastern edge of the sidewalk is about seven feet.

Ayes: all by roll call.

Request to Permit Holiday Lighting of Nelson Lakeside Park

John James, President of the Long Lake Area Chamber of Commerce, spoke on behalf of Orono Lions Club President Bradley Hanson and gave an overview of where the Orono Lions Club would like to install temporary holiday lighting at Nelson Lakeside Park.

Public Works Director Diercks clarified that if the Council approves this request, there are seven conditions that he would like to see included. He reviewed the conditions and noted that he had discussed them with Mr. James and there were no objections.

Council member Dyvik suggested that there be some sort of timer or light sensor so that lights come on when it is dark.

Mr. James stated that he believes there were already plans to include a light sensor device for these lights.

Diercks stated that the City needs to be mindful of the neighbors in the townhomes and assure that this does not brighten up their world too much. He added that the Council may also want to consider placing a time limit on the lights.

Council member Dyvik commented that the use of a timer may make sense because it could be changed, if necessary.

The Council discussed what time they would like to see the holiday lights turned off.

A motion was made by Dyvik, seconded by Miner, to allow the Orono Lions Club to install temporary holiday lighting in Nelson Lakeside Park subject to the conditions as outlined in the staff memo, with the addition of the lighting period not to exceed midnight. Ayes: all by roll call. (Note: Council member Jerde experienced technical difficulties and was not present for the vote.)

Resolution Electing to Participate in the Local Housing Incentives Account Program Under the Metropolitan Livable Communities Act (Required to Maintain LCA Grant Eligibility)

City Administrator Weske gave an overview of the Local Housing Incentives Account program and explained the next steps if the Council opts to continue participation. He explained that because of the busy-ness of the election season, this item was missed prior to sending out the agenda and an amended agenda was distributed earlier in the day.

Council member Dyvik stated that he is not sure he would be ready to make a decision on this item since it is so last minute and he would like to have time to read through the information before making a decision.

Weske advised that all this does is allow the City to apply for LCA grants. He stated that it is a voluntary program and there are no repercussions associated with participation. He pointed out that the City has been renewing this for the last 20 years and will not be able to renew this again until 2031.

Mayor Miner asked about some of the action plan items required for participation.

Weske explained that there is additional time to adopt the housing action plan but there is a deadline of November 15, 2020 for the City to adopt a resolution stating that they want to continue to be part of the program.

Council member Dyvik clarified that this is nothing new and the City has been involved in it all along but just has not utilized it.

Weske stated that the City has never called on the grants because there was never a development where the City was involved.

Council member Skjaret noted that it is a quite extensive process to be eligible for these kinds of subsidies and he does not think the City is likely to have projects that would meet that criteria.

Council member Dyvik stated that if the City does not think it may see projects that would be eligible to participate in this, he questions why the City would proceed and be part of the program.

Council member Skjaret responded that his reasoning would be that the City does not know what will happen in 10 years and things could change.

Weske reminded the Council that the request before them is just asking for the City to participate in the program, and it is voluntary opportunity in order to be eligible for grant money from Metropolitan Council. He reiterated that the City has been in the program since at least 2010.

The Council discussed whether putting this on the agenda at the last minute violates their open meeting laws. They discussed the possibility of asking for an extension so the Council has time to take a look at the materials.

Weske stated that he believes the City can ask for an extension from Metropolitan Council or they can try to notice a special separate meeting for the Council to take action on November 13, 2020. Staff received direction to notice a special meeting for November 13, 2020 following the Canvassing Board meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Flags for Veterans Day - Council member Dyvik thanked Public Works Director Diercks for hanging flags for Veterans Day.

Notification of Speed Study on CR 112 - Council member Dyvik asked about the e-mail the Council received regarding a speed study. Diercks noted that he does not have much more information than what was outlined in the e-mail. There will be a speed study conducted by MnDOT with Phase 1 and 2 now completed but they don't know when it will happen. He cautioned the Council that this speed study could increase the speed limits in this corridor and added that he would like to stress the word 'could'.

Fire Department Updates - Fire Chief Van Eyll reported that the Halloween drive by trick or treating event was a huge success. He stated that the event raised enough money to purchase three new AEDs. He updated Council on other items, indicating that the SCBA CIP expense approval will be coming to Council in the near future. He commented that through CARES Act funding the City was able to offset some of his salary due to his involvement with COVID-19. He stated that the question he will be bringing to the Council is whether some of the money that was offset can be utilized to purchase new extrication tools. Van Eyll closed by asking people to wear their masks, wash their hands, and keep socially distanced.

Public Works Updates - Public Works Director Diercks stated that the well house generator for Well #1 was set last Friday and staff is coordinating with contractors with the hope that the work will be completed by December 31, 2020. He noted that Public Works took advantage of the few days of good weather in order to continue with fall clean-up and will now be shifting right into plowing.

Weske reminded the Council that there will be a Canvassing Board meeting on November 13, 2020.

ADJOURN

Hearing no objection, Mayor Miner adjourned the meeting by general consent at 7:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Weske
City Administrator